

## Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000 Governor Asa Hutchinson José R. Romero, MD, Interim Secretary of Health

## Steps to take if a staff member tests positive for COVID-19

Revised October 28, 2020

All patients and dental health care personnel (DHCP) are to be screened when arriving to the dental facility. A daily log for monitoring purposes should be part of office protocols in the event that contract tracing is necessary if a team member, or patient, report a positive COVID-19 test result. A sample log is provided.

Any patient or staff member that reports with a fever and signs or symptoms related to COVID-19 should be sent to the nearest testing facility.

- DHCP should report as a healthcare worker to ensure a more rapid test result
- A patient that tests positive should not be treated for 14 days <u>unless</u> reporting pain that requires immediate attention;
  - Such an emergency patient may be treated if all precautions are taken as outlined previously in the ADH guidelines;
  - o End of the day treatment is encouraged to further restrict potential viral spread.
- If a DHCP tests positive for COVID-19
  - o Remain in isolation until cleared;
  - o Isolation time will be clarified by case investigator for the Department of Health;
  - o A letter of release will be delivered to positive DHCP once cleared from isolation.

The general assumption is that all DHCPs are following the ADH guidelines and protocols for wearing the appropriate PPE for their work position. Should a DHCP test positive for COVID-19, it is advisable that other dental team members that may have been in contact with an unprotected exposure (full PPE) should consider testing as well. Any other positive cases need to self-quarantine for 14 days. Continue monitoring for symptoms and increase temperature check intervals at arrival, mid-day and at the conclusion of the day for the next 10 days following the report of a positive test result.

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## **Daily Log**

Actively screen everyone (DHCP and patients) on the spot for fever (≥100.0°F) and symptoms of COVID-19 (described below) immediately upon entering the facility. Patients/DHCP who meet the following criteria SHOULD NOT BE TREATED (or remain at work):

- o Presents with fever of ≥100.0°F (use digital thermometer to check each person entering facility);
- Have signs/symptoms associated with COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell);
- Had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days\*\*;
- o Pending a COVID-19 test result.

Date				

Name	Temp	Symptoms Yes No		Pending COVID test results Yes No		Contact with COVID+ person within last 14 days**	
				res	NO	Yes	No

<sup>\*\*</sup> if the screened person is a healthcare worker and wore full PPE during the encounter with the positive person, then it is not considered an exposure